

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communications system comprising:
an application server and at least one communications device for processing requests from one another, said at least one communications device processing requests using a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) client application; and

an HTTP server for interfacing said HTTP client application with said application server;

said HTTP server and said HTTP client application formatting requests to be communicated therebetween via the Internet in an HTTP format, and each providing additional state information with the HTTP formatted requests recognizable by the other for authenticating the application server and said HTTP client application to one another;

said HTTP client application requesting a first universal resource locator (URL) from said HTTP server for accepting work requests from said application server, and requesting a second URL different from the first URL from said HTTP server for responding to work requests from said application server.

2. The communications system of Claim 1 wherein the additional state information comprises a global unique identifier (GUID) associated with said HTTP client application.

3. The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said HTTP client application and said HTTP server further provide sequencing information with the HTTP formatted requests.

4. The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said HTTP client application and said HTTP server format the additional state information as HTTP headers for respective HTTP formatted requests.

5. The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one communications device is within a protected computing environment.

6. The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said HTTP server and said HTTP client application communicate via the Internet.

7. A communications system comprising:
an application server and at least one communications device for processing requests from one another, said at least one communications device processing requests using a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) client application; and

an HTTP server for interfacing said HTTP client application with said application server;

said HTTP server and said HTTP client application formatting requests to be communicated therebetween via the Internet in an HTTP format, and each providing a global unique identifier (GUID) associated with said HTTP client application with the HTTP formatted requests for authenticating the application server and said HTTP client application to one another;

said HTTP client application requesting a first universal resource locator (URL) from said HTTP server for accepting work requests from said application server, and requesting a second URL

different from the first URL from said HTTP server for responding to work requests from said application server, and said HTTP client application and said HTTP server further providing sequencing information with the HTTP formatted requests.

8. The communications system of Claim 7 wherein said HTTP client application and said HTTP server format the additional state information as HTTP headers for respective HTTP formatted requests.

9. The communications system of Claim 7 wherein said at least one communications device is within a protected computing environment.

10. The communications system of Claim 7 wherein said HTTP server and said HTTP client application communicate via the Internet.

11. A method for interfacing an application server and at least one communications device using a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) server, the application server and the at least one client communications device for processing requests from one another, and the at least one communications device processing requests using an HTTP client application, the method comprising:

formatting requests to be communicated between the HTTP server and the HTTP client application via the Internet in an HTTP format;

providing additional state information with the HTTP formatted requests communicated between the HTTP server and the HTTP client application for authenticating the application server and the HTTP

client application to one another, the respective additional state information of the HTTP server and the HTTP client application being recognizable by the other; and

at the HTTP client application, requesting a first universal resource locator (URL) from the HTTP server for accepting work requests from the application server, and requesting a second URL different from the first URL from the HTTP server for responding to work requests from the application server.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the additional state information comprises a global unique identifier (GUID) associated with the HTTP client application.

13. The method of Claim 11 further comprising providing sequencing information with the HTTP formatted requests.

14. The method of Claim 11 wherein formatting comprises formatting the additional state information as HTTP headers for respective HTTP formatted requests.

15. The method of Claim 11 wherein the HTTP server and the HTTP client application communicate via the Internet.

16. The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one communications device is within a protected computing environment.